has approached the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding insufficient supply of Bitumen and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure sufficient and un-interrupted supply of Bitumen;

(b) whether long queues are witnessed for Asphalt at Koyali Refinery during the working season, resulting in long waiting period for tankers;

(c) if so, what is the average waiting period for tankers;

(d) whether the loading capacity of Bitumen at Koyali Refinery is sufficient to take care of the demand; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure sufficient loading capacity;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The oil companies have been directed to meet the full requirement of the State.

(b) Long queues are witnessed occasionally during the peak working season.

(c) Only during the peak season, the average waiting period is one to two days occasionally.

(d) and (c) The loading capacity of Bitumen at Koyali Refinery is more than the actual production. Till the expansion of Koyali Refinery, the production of Bitumen cannot be increased as per the production pattern.

Ceiling on Supply of Furniture to Central Ministers

2408. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of furniture supplied to Central Ministers;

(b) whether there is any ceiling fixed for supply of furniture to Ministers, including other luxury items, at their residence;

(c) whether Government propose to charge rent for the additional furniture provided at the residences of Ministers; and

(d) if not, the procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The value of furniture and electrical appliances provided free of rent in a residence allotted to Central Ministers is governed by Ministers Residences Rules. Ministers and Ministers of State are provided free furniture and furnishing upto the value of Rs. 30,500 and Deputy Minister upto the value of Rs. 22,500.

(c) and (d) For the furniture and furnishing over and above the prescribed ceilling, Ministers are required to pay rent at the same rate as applicable to Government servants together with departmental charges.

Grants By Regional Offices of CAPART

2409. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Regional Offices of CAPART are functioning;

(b) if so, the number of grants given by Regional Office of CAPART in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96; and

(c) the details of the funds released in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In 1995-96, the Regional Committee of CAPART had sanctioned 206 projects in Andhra Pradesh and the amounts sanctioned and released for these projects were Rs. 6.07 crores and Rs. 3.12 crores respectively.